



THE SHANNON REGIONAL FISHERIES BOARD

Fact sheet No.2

Stream walkabout



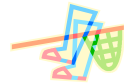
25th April to 4th May
2009

The promotion of fisheries and environmental awareness is one of the many roles of the Shannon Regional Fisheries Board. Ponds, lakes, rivers and

streams are all **ecosystems** which have many different fish, animals, insects, birds and plants. The water quality of these ecosystems is related to the different species that are present. This leaflet is designed to encourage people to get out and explore a watercourse. Only some of the species that you will encounter are here – there are many more.

Safety first

- Always have an adult present near water
- Do not go alone anywhere near water
- Be careful of steep or slippery banks
- Be careful of slippery stones in river bed



What you need

- You can observe a lot of things by simply watching carefully from the bankside
- Pair of wellies if you don't want to get your feet wet
- Dip net to catch insects on the top of the water or fish
- White basin – makes it easier to see what you have got
- A magnifying glass makes it easier to see the little insects
- A notebook and pencil
- A camera for recording

Remember conservation

- Be gentle as you explore all the different species and return them to where they were taken

Quick guide

Observe from bank

Kingfisher – usually flies quickly and nests in river bank, blue bank with orange belly
Dipper – small bird which can be seen hopping along stones in the stream, brown with white bill
Grey Heron – stands very still, yellow beak
Otter – timid, often seen swimming, dark brown
Mink – not native, smaller than otter and cheeky

In the net

Salmon or trout – have adipose fin- small fin towards the tail of the fish
Stoneloach – whiskers like catfish around its mouth
Minnow – markings on its body
Gudgeon – barbel under its chin

On stones

Simply lift out stones from the bed of the stream and look closely or wash the insects into a white basin

Mayfly – 3 tails
Stonefly – 2 tails
Caddis fly – cased – lives in small tube (house) made from sand, stones or plants
Caddisfly – uncased – hooks along its back to attach its house
Freshwater shrimp – swims around quickly its side
Chironomids – bloodworms - red
Leech – sticks to your hand or the basin

Let us know

Let us know where and when you surveyed and better send us your photograph.

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